

# SHOCK

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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE



EVIL RETURNS

HOSTILE  
DESTROYER

THE LAND OF  
LIVING MYTHS

FANGS OF  
THE FIEND

PLUS OTHER HORRIFYING  
TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL

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# SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

MARCH 1970

CONTENTS

VOL. 1, NO. 6

**EVIL RETURNS.....** 4

What was the strange link between the tigers and the sinister-looking man from Bengal?

**THE BURIED CURSE.....** 11

The 'Killer Fever' had taken hundreds of lives during the plague of the 1800's. And now, it had started up again—as ordered by the Death Phantom

**HOSTILE DESTROYER.....** 18

He slew the bad; spared only the pure of heart

**THE LAND OF LIVING MYTHS.....** 26

Sometimes, disbelief in the supernatural can be an invitation to horror

**DEATH AT THE CARNIVAL.....** 33

Greed and jealousy inside the Big Top results in a summons to the devil

**FANGS OF THE FIEND.....** 34

The primitive necklace held an evil charm

**MIRROR OF DOOM.....** 42

Through its glassy surface the dead could return to the living. One man wanted to use it for good; another man for unholy means

**WEREWOLVES OF THE ROCKIES.....** 46

Folklore has it that the monster came from Europe and hid out in the mountains a century ago. This is the chilling, bone-rattling tale of what happened to his blood-lust descendants

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# EVIL RETURNS

RAINED OUT! WELL, SWEETHEART—  
GUESS **THIS** TAKES CARE OF YOUR  
HUNCH THAT WE'D FIND OURSELVES A  
FRONT PAGE STORY FOR THE "DISPATCH"  
IN THE ZOO!

Have you ever looked into the tawny eyes of a caged tiger—and known the meaning of **FEAR**? Have you caught, within these savage depths, a hint of why tigers stalk at **NIGHT**—spreading terror in their wake? Then you'll understand the unholy pair that scorned both time and distance in their fiendish search for **REVENGE**! Yes, one of them was a **TIGER**—and the other—**A ONCE-LIVING CREATURE** from out of **THE UNKNOWN!**



DON'T LET A LITTLE LIGHTNING GET YOU DOWN, SANDRA! IT NEVER HITS TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE—AND IT CERTAINLY JOLTED **ME** THE DAY YOU SIGNED ON AS A CUB REPORTER!

DON—TELL ME IF YOU SEE ANYTHING DOWN THERE—**AMONG THE TIGERS!**



IN THE RIPPING GLARE  
OF ANOTHER  
LIGHTNING BOLT...



AT THE INSTANT DON RAISES HIS CAMERA...

THIS I WANT  
A PICTURE  
OF!

DON—GET BACK! IT'S JUMPING OUT!



AS THE PHANTOM FLITS THROUGH  
THE DRIPPING SHRUBBERY...

GREAT GUNS! NO HUMAN  
COULD HAVE MADE A LEAP  
LIKE THAT—BUT WHAT  
IS IT?

ASK THE  
TIGERS—THEY  
SEEM TO KNOW!



LIKE UNLEASHED JUNGLE DEMONS...

YOU'RE RIGHT,  
SANDRA! THEY  
SEEM TO WANT  
TO FOLLOW  
HIM!

WELL, FAR BE IT FROM  
ME TO COME  
BETWEEN OLD  
FRIENDS! I'M  
LEAVING!

AN HOUR LATER - IN THE  
"DISPATCH" CITY ROOM...

NOT A BAD STORY  
FOR A RAINY  
AFTERNOON!  
DID YOU LUCKY  
PEOPLE MANAGE  
TO GET A  
PICTURE?

YEP - A TURKEY!  
I WAS A TRIFLE  
TOO LATE WITH  
MY FLASH - AND  
HERE'S ALL  
I CAUGHT!

TOO BAD - BUT OUR  
READERS WOULDN'T  
SWALLOW A STORY LIKE  
THIS WITHOUT PROOF!  
HEY, GILLIGAN - COME  
HERE!



GILLIGAN, MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE PIG-HEADED  
ABOUT THAT STORY YOU TURNED IN THIS  
MORNING - ON THE CHARACTER WHO  
JUMPED FROM THE FREIGHT HATCH OF  
A TRANS-EMPIRE PLANE JUST BEFORE  
IT LANDED! TELL SANDRA AND  
DON WHERE THAT PLANE  
WAS FROM, GILLIGAN!

WEIRD  
COINCIDENCE,  
EH?

INDIA!

IT WAS WEIRD ENOUGH - BUT NO  
COINCIDENCE! THAT THING WE SAW IN  
THE ZOO ARRIVED THIS  
MORNING - AND I'VE GOT A  
FLUTTERY NOTION IT WAS  
JUST HIDING OUT THERE  
- UNTIL TONIGHT!

SOMETHING  
TELLS ME WE  
COULD BOTH  
USE A CUP OF  
COFFEE!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

THANKS FOR THE TIP, MIKE - BUT  
FRANKLY, I DON'T SEE A STORY  
IN A TRUCK DRIVER ASKING YOU  
FOR AN ADDRESS - EVEN IF IT  
WAS THE FLETCHER ADAMS  
MANSION!

HE WAS A FOREIGNER -  
WALKING ALONG BAREFOOT!  
AND WHO SAID ANYTHING  
ABOUT A TRUCK?

I ASSUMED HE HAD  
ONE! DIDN'T YOU MENTION  
A MOTOR, OR A TURBINE,  
OR SOMETHING?

NOT  
TURBINE  
- TURBAN!  
AROUND  
THE HEAD!



NOW YOU'RE LATCHING ON! WHEN A CHARACTER COMES ALL THE WAY FROM INDIA TO LOOK UP A WEALTHY BIG GAME HUNTER--THAT'S NEWS!

THOSE WHACKY NEWSPAPER PEOPLE--YOU'D THINK I STUCK 'EM WITH A PIN!

COULD BE--BUT THEY STUCK **YOU** WITH THE CHECK!

SOON AFTERWARD...

OF COURSE--IT COULD BE **ANOTHER** HINDU!

I'D LIKE TO THINK SO, TOO--IF I DIDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT FLETCHER ADAMS' HUNTING EXPEDITIONS WERE CHIEFLY FOR **TIGERS!**

SPFFFT!

MR. ADAMS! WE'RE FROM THE "DISPATCH," AND--

HA--I THOUGHT THE NEWSPAPERS WOULD FIND IT AN INTERESTING STORY! AFTER ALL--IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT AN ENTIRE STAFF OF SERVANTS WALK OUT IN A PANIC!

SOMETHING... SCARED THEM?

INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT? AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THEY SAY IT MOVES AND MAKES NOISES--**MY FAVORITE TIGER!**

THOSE EYES! DON--DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

RELAX, SANDRA! THEY DO REMIND ME OF THOSE GLARING THINGS WE SAW IN THE ZOO, BUT AFTER ALL--**THESE EYES ARE JUST GLASS!**

NOT AT ALL! AS A MATTER OF FACT--THEY HAPPEN TO BE GENUINE **CAT'S-EYES!**

THEY'RE **WHAT?**



CAT'S-EYES -- A **GEM!** DON'T LET THAT GLOW FROM THE TIGER SKIN ALARM YOU -- I'M CONVINCED IT'S MERELY A FORM OF PHOSPHORESCENT MOLD! ABOUT THE GEMS -- **THEY** WERE PART OF MY ADVENTURE IN THAT STRANGE LITTLE VILLAGE IN BENGAL -- THE NIGHT I MET BOTH THIS TIGER AND -- WELL, THE DEVIL KNOWS WHERE HE IS!



JUST A NATIVE I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT MANY A NIGHT SINCE -- A STRANGE-LOOKING CREEP IN A TURBAN!

BEFORE WE JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS -- LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY! WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, MR. ADAMS?



I GAVE UP ANY IDEA OF BAGGING A TIGER WHEN WE REACHED A GROUP OF DOME-SHAPED HUTS! THEY WERE DIFFERENT FROM ANY I HAD SEEN IN INDIA, EACH WITH A CAT'S-EYE SET ABOVE THE LOW DOORWAY -- BUT THAT DIDN'T EXPLAIN MY GUNBEARER'S TERROR! I HAD JUST POCKETED TWO OF THE GEMS WHEN I NOTICED HIM -- THIS TALL, BEARDED FELLOW IN THE TURBAN!

AND... WAS THERE A TIGER NEARBY?



STRANGELY ENOUGH -- THAT OCCURRED TO ME! THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS STRANGE, GROWLING VOICE -- WHEN HE TOLD ME THERE WERE NO TIGERS AROUND -- THAT MADE ME CERTAIN THERE WAS ONE! SURE ENOUGH, THE MOMENT HE SLIPPED INTO THE DARKNESS --

I SAW IT!



YES, A TIGER -- GLISTENING IN THE MOONLIGHT -- AND I KILLED IT WITH A SINGLE CARELESS SHOT! A STRANGE STORY -- BUT I'D HARDLY CONSIDER IT SUPERNATURAL MERELY BECAUSE THAT NATIVE VANISHED -- AND DIDN'T TURN UP AGAIN!

HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I SAW QUITE A BIT OF INDIA DURING THE WAR -- AND THAT PLACE YOU DESCRIBE, WITH THE CAT'S-EYE TALISMANS, HAPPENS TO HAVE BEEN A NATIVE GRAVEYARD!

AS FOR THE MYSTERIOUS NATIVE -- HE HAS TURNED UP AGAIN! WE SAW HIM TODAY IN THE TIGER DEN AT THE ZOO -- AND HE GROWLED JUST LIKE --



GREAT GUNS! THAT ISN'T JUST THE SNARL OF A TIGER -- IT'S THE WAY HE SOUNDED -- WHEN HE SPOKE!

BRACE YOURSELF FOR ANOTHER JOLT, ADAMS! HE'S HERE!



I'M NOT SURE HE'LL BE SATISFIED WITH RECOVERING THAT, ADAMS — BUT IF YOU'RE SMART — YOU'LL LET HIM HAVE IT!

HE'S NOT GOING TO GET IT — NOT THE TIGER SKIN I HUNTED YEARS TO FIND! I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS OR WHAT HE CAN DO — I'M NOT BACKING DOWN!



THEN — WITH HEADLONG FURY...



CRASH!



SLOWLY, THE GLOWING TIGER SKIN RIPPLES WITH AN EERIE, HEAVING MOTION — THE STIRRING OF AN AROUSED JUNGLE DEMON!



THAT'S MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR ADAMS! HE'S DEAD, SANDRA — AND THAT CREEP IN THE TURBAN SEEMS TO HAVE THE SAME IDEA IN MIND FOR US!

SUDDENLY — WITH TERROR CLOSING IN FROM BOTH SIDES...

DON! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE — CROUCHING NEAR THE STAIRS!



I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO — SEE WHAT WENT ON HERE!

MIKE — KEEP AWAY FROM THAT THING!





BUT IN  
THE NEXT  
INSTANT—

**GRACK!**



WELL — THERE'S ONE LESS  
GHOUL HAUNTING THE BURIAL  
MOUNDS BACK IN BENGAL!



YOU MEAN THE  
CURRENT  
CONDUCTED  
BY THE  
HANDCUFFS  
ON HIS WRISTS  
FINISHED  
HIM OFF?

THE **RIGHT WRIST**—  
AND IT'S A GOOD THING  
I REMEMBERED THE  
SCAR THAT SHOWED UP  
IN THE PHOTOGRAPH  
I SNAPPED AT THE ZOO!  
YOU'LL SEE WHY, WHEN  
WE EXAMINE THE THING  
THAT COST ADAMS HIS  
LIFE — **THE SKIN OF A  
DEMON TIGER!**



**A DEMON TIGER** — OUTSTRETCHED ON THE  
FLOOR WITH ITS INFERNAL GLOW DIMMED FOREVER!

REMEMBER ADAMS SAYING HE KILLED THE TIGER  
WITH ONE CARELESS SHOT? THERE'S THE HOLE  
MADE BY HIS SHOT — AND HERE'S **MINE** —  
**BOTH ON THE FOREPAW CORRESPONDING**  
**TO THE PHANTOM'S SCARRED WRIST!**



CATS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE FAMILIAR  
SPIRITS OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS! IN THIS  
CASE, IT WAS A **TIGER** — A BEAST WHICH  
SHARED NIGHTS OF TERROR WITH ITS  
PHANTOM MASTER — AND ALSO  
SHARED THE PHANTOM'S ONLY  
VITAL SPOT! IT WAS THE  
SCARRED WRIST — MARKING  
AN INJURY SUSTAINED WHILE  
THE PHANTOM **LIVED**!  
AFTER YEARS OF STALKING  
IN THE JUNGLE WITH THE  
TIGER — THE PHANTOM  
HUNTED **ALONE** AFTER  
ADAMS LEFT INDIA WITH  
HIS TROPHY!



HUNTED  
WHAT,  
DON?

**ADAMS!** AND YOU SAW  
WHY TONIGHT — WHEN THE  
TIGER TOOK SHAPE AT THE VERY  
INSTANT THE MAN WHO  
KILLED IT **DIED**!



AN HOUR LATER ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH  
YOU PEOPLE! I TELL YOU  
I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL  
FOR YOU TONIGHT — SOME-  
THING I GET FROM FAR  
AWAY — AND YOU GET  
WHITE AS A NAPKIN!

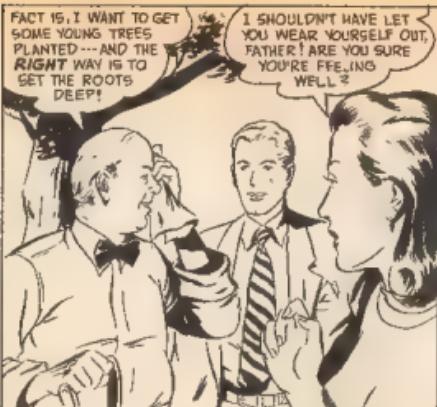
JUST A MATTER OF  
PRONUNCIATION, PETE!  
WHILE THESE TWO ARE  
BROODING ABOUT **TURBAN**  
— I'LL HAVE SOME  
OF THAT  
**TERRAPIN**!



The

# BURIED CURSE





WHATEVER IT WAS - SCORES OF PEOPLE DIED WITHIN TWO DAYS---AND EVERY ONE OF THE VICTIMS SAW A HIDEOUS PHANTOM JUST BEFORE THE END! ONLY A FEW PERSONS GATHERED AT THE DEATH-BEDS SAW THE THING---AND AS IT TURNED OUT - THEY WERE STRICKEN WITHIN A FEW HOURS! WE'RE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, AND CAN LEAVE OUT SUPERSTITION IN THIS CASE--- BUT I'M AFRAID THE RESULT'S GOING TO BE THE SAME!

YOU MEAN---FATHER ISN'T GOING TO LIVE?

AFRAID NOT, DIANA! I'D SUGGEST A HOSPITAL---BUT THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT HE'S SINKING FAST!

IT'S TOUGH, SWEETHEART ---BUT YOU'VE BOTH BEEN EXPOSED TO THE FEVER---SO I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU STREPTOMYCIN SHOTS BEFORE I LEAVE! THAT SHOULD KNOCK OUT ANY GERMS YOU MAY HAVE PICKED UP!

AN HOUR LATER...

I---I HAVEN'T GOT LONG, DIANA! GLAD YOU AND LESLIE ARE WITH ME --- BUT WHO ELSE IS HERE?

THERE CAN'T BE ANYONE BUT US, FATHER ---DR. NICHOLS LEFT SOME TIME AGO!

THEN---WITH GLAZED EYES STARING INTO THE GLOOM---

YE GODS---IT'S HORRIBLE! IT'S WATCHING ME---IT KNOWS I'M GOING TO DIE!

PLEASE, FATHER ---FOR YOUR OWN SAKE - TRY TO BE TRANQUIL!

GREAT GUNS!

OH! LESLIE ---WHAT IS IT?

LORD KNOWS---BUT THERE'S A WEIRD LIGHT BREAKING AROUND YOUR FATHER'S

AS THE GLOW COMPRESSES AND TAKES FORM...

LOOK---LOOK!  
IT'S A GHOSTLY  
MASK...WITH  
FATHER'S  
FEATURES!

IT'S MOVING---  
TOWARD THAT  
HIDEOUS  
PHANTOM!

PHANTOM! HOLY MACKEREL,  
THAT'S THE THING DR. NICHOLS  
MENTIONED---THE GHOST  
THAT APPEARED WHEN-  
EVER THE CURSE  
FEVER STRUCK!

FOR A TERRIBLE SECOND, THE TWO FACES COME  
TOGETHER---FUSED IN AN ENORMITY OF HORROR!

DIANA, TURN AWAY---  
DON'T  
WATCH!

YOUR FATHER'S FACE HAS  
VANISHED, DIANA---JUST  
AS IF THAT FIEND HAD  
ENGULFED WHAT IT REPRE-  
SENTED---HIS SOUL!

THEN FATHER  
---OH, LESLIE---  
HE'S  
DEAD!

AS THE GRISLY FIGURE MOVES  
TOWARD THE DOOR...

I SHOULD HAVE  
KNOWN---AFTER  
HEARING ABOUT  
THE GHOST---  
AND THOSE  
OTHER VICTIMS  
OF CURSE  
FEVER!

HONEY, YOU'VE  
HAD A CRUEL  
SHOCK---AND  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
STEEL YOURSELF  
FOR ANOTHER  
ONE! WE HAVEN'T  
FELT THE EFFECTS  
YET---BUT THERE'S

A GOOD  
CHANCE  
WE'LL BE  
DEAD BY  
MORN-  
ING!

DEAD? LESLIE  
THAT'LL HAVE  
TO WAIT! THE  
VITAL THING  
NOW IS TO KEEP  
AN EYE ON THAT  
FIEND---AND SEE  
WHERE IT GOES!

WAIT---  
THERE  
IT IS!

STRANGE---IT'S MOV-  
ING TOWARD THE HOLE  
YOUR FATHER DUG  
THIS AFTERNOON!

SLOWLY... LIKE A CREEPING FLOW OF EVIL...



IN THE NEXT HORROR-LADEN MINUTE...



GOOD LORD, WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE WE UP AGAINST--A GHOSTLY FIEND ONE MOMENT--AND A SHAPELESS TERROR THE NEXT!

DIANA WE'VE GOT TO FACE THE TRUTH--THAT THING ISN'T ACTUALLY WHAT IT **SEEMS** TO BE! IT ISN'T A MONSTER--IT ISN'T A GHOST--  
**IT'S GERMS!**



I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD--WHEN PEOPLE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE FEVER VICTIMS HAD BEEN CURSED BY A FRIEND! BUT THEIR FEAR-RIDDEN ATTITUDE WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE TRUTH--**THE REAL EVIL IS A TOXIN CREATED BY A NEW STRAIN OF GERMS!** THE GHOST IS MERELY A MANIFESTATION--A FORM THE GERMS ARE ABLE TO TAKE AFTER DRAINING THE PSYONIC ENERGY OF THEIR DYING VICTIMS!



THEN THIS HOLE FATHER DUO--GOOD HEAVENS--LESLIE--WHAT'S DOWN THERE?

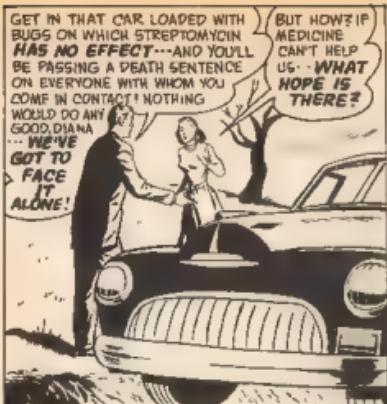
BODIES... BURIED IN A MASS GRAVE! THE GERMS REMAINED DORMANT FOR OVER A CENTURY--BUT THEY'VE BEEN RELEASED, DIANA! THEY'RE READY TO DEAL OUT THE CURSE FEVER AGAIN--FIRST YOUR FATHER... AND NOW US!

LESLIE, FOR HEAVEN'S HONEY SAKE DON'T TALK LIKE THAT--DON'T BE SO HORRIBLY CERTAIN! I'VE BEEN CERTAIN... EVER SINCE WE SAW THE GHOST! WE COULDN'T HAVE SEEN IT WHEN YOUR FATHER DIED--IF THE GERMS WEREN'T ALREADY IN OUR SYSTEMS!

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE LIKE THAT--STARING IN TERROR--GASPING HELPLESSLY WHILE THAT THING STALKS CLOSER! WE'VE GOT TO REACH A HOSPITAL--WHY ARE WE WASTING PRECIOUS MOMENTS HERE?

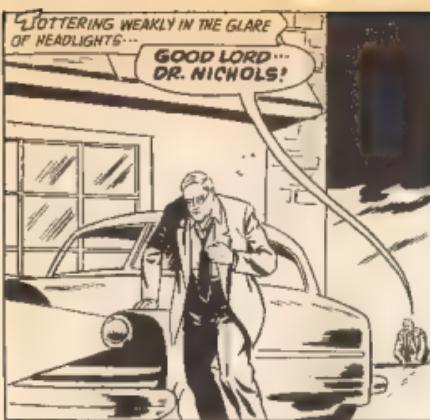
HOLD IT--YOU'RE NOT LEAVING!



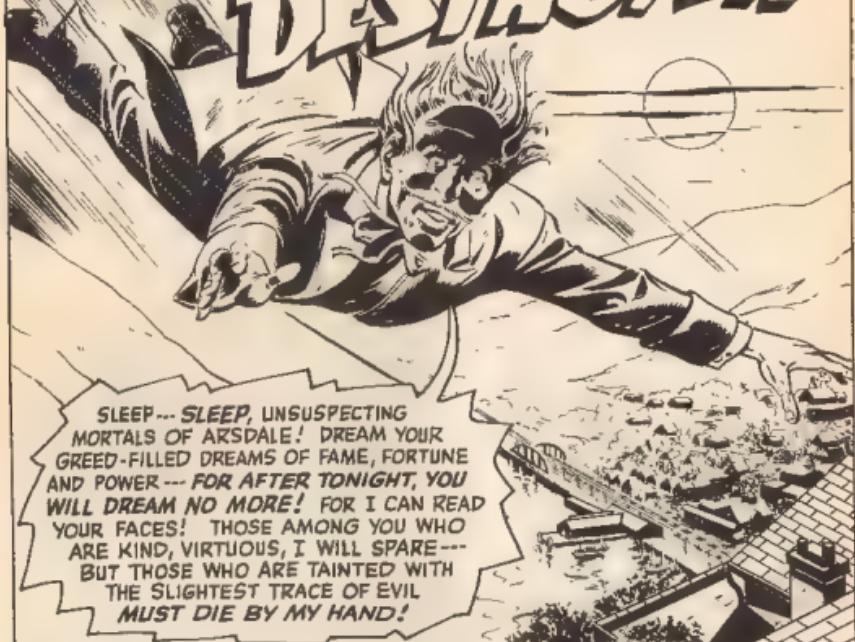


NO USE KIDDING OURSELVES --WE'RE GOING TO KNOW WHAT THE APPROACH OF DEATH IS LIKE--**AND IT WILL MEAN THE RETURN OF THAT FIEND!** BUT IT'S THE VERY SOUL OF THOSE LITTLE KILLERS, DIANA --**A SINGLE CREATURE EMBODYING BILLIONS OF GERMS!** IF IT COULD BE DESTROYED AT THE INSTANT IT APPEARS --**THE GERMS THEM-SELVES WOULD BE EXTERMINATED!**





# GHOSTLY DESTROYER



SLEEP... SLEEP, UNSUSPECTING MORTALS OF ARSDALE! DREAM YOUR GREED-FILLED DREAMS OF FAME, FORTUNE AND POWER -- FOR AFTER TONIGHT, YOU WILL DREAM NO MORE! FOR I CAN READ YOUR FACES! THOSE AMONG YOU WHO ARE KIND, VIRTUOUS, I WILL SPARE -- BUT THOSE WHO ARE TAINTED WITH THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF EVIL MUST DIE BY MY HAND!

BUT NOT ALL ARE ASLEEP IN THE SMALL, PEACEFUL TOWN OF ARSDALE, ON THE BANKS OF THE TRANQUIL HUDSON...

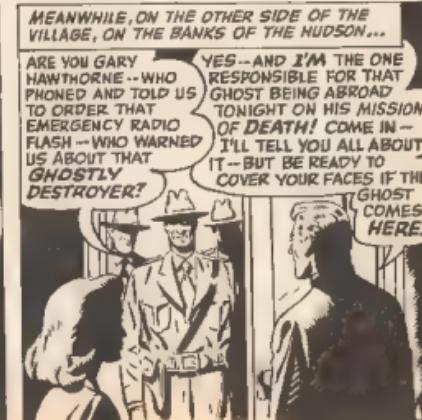
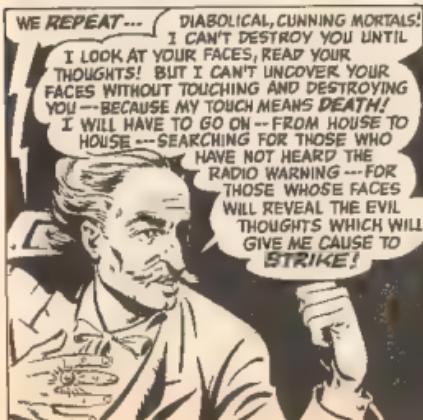
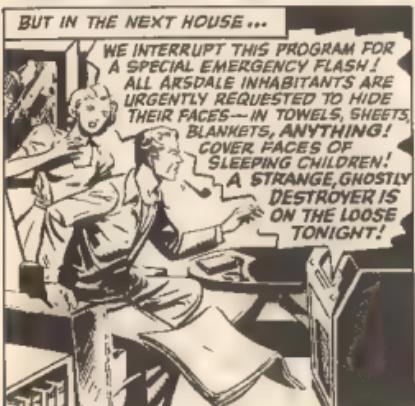
THIS'LL BE THE EASIEST HOUSEBREAKIN' JOB WE EVER PULLED! HEY!  
-- YUH'RE LETTIN' ME SLIP!

L-LOOK!



DIE... DIE!



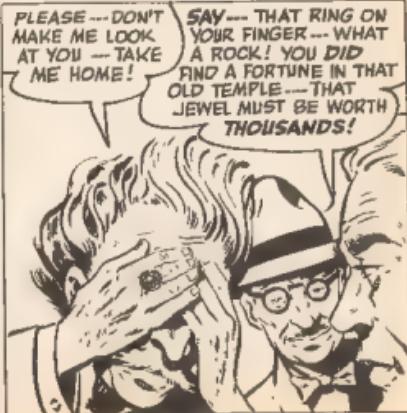
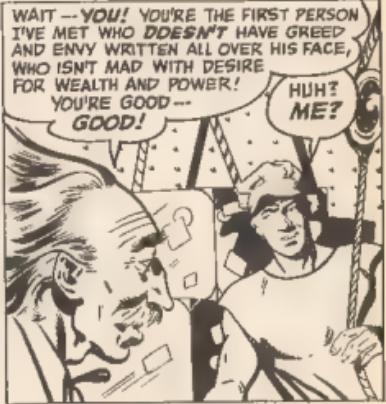


IT ALL STARTED THREE DAYS AGO, WHEN I DROVE DOWN TO NEW YORK WITH MY SISTER CLAUDIA, HERE, AND MY BROTHER VICTOR — TO MEET A LINER COMING IN FROM EGYPT! WE'D RECEIVED A VERY STRANGELY WORDED CABLEGRAM FROM MY FATHER, PROF. HAWTHORNE, THE EMINENT EGYPTOLOGIST — SAYING THAT HE'D MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY IN THE RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF BEHBEH, AND WAS ABANDONING HIS EXPEDITION AND RETURNING HOME IMMEDIATELY!

"NATURALLY, WE WERE ALL WORRIED — AND WHEN THE LINER FINALLY DOCKED..."

THERE HE IS — COMING DOWN THE GANGWAY!

GREAT SCOTT! JUST LOOK AT HIM! HE'S SO PALE, SO WILD-LOOKING! AND WHY'S HE SWINGING HIS CANE AT THOSE PASSENGERS? HE MUST'VE GONE BATTY!



THERE---JUST LEAN BACK AND RELAX, FATHER! YOU'LL FEEL BETTER AS SOON AS WE GET YOU HOME!

SAY, POP--- WHAT ABOUT THAT RING? WHERE IN BLAZES DID YOU GET SUCH A GEM?

THE RING? IT IS THE ACCURSED RING OF ISIS --- THE EGYPTIAN GODDESS OF MAGIC --- AND HE WHO WEARS IT IS DOOMED FOREVER!

THE RING CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM MY FINGER UNTIL 48 HOURS AFTER MY DEATH --- BUT I WANT YOU ALL TO PROMISE ME THAT WHEN I DIE, YOU WILL BURY ME IN THE OLD INDIAN BURIAL CAVE ON OUR GROUNDS --- AND THAT YOU WILL SEAL ME INTO IT BEFORE THE 48 HOURS ARE UP! PROMISE ME!

SURE, DAD--- SURE---WE PROMISE! BUT YOU'VE GOT A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU YET!

"BUT WHEN WE GOT HOME, WE SOON SAW THAT DAD'S STRANGE OBSESSION HADN'T LEFT HIM..."

HELP ME UP TO MY ROOM! I... I STILL DON'T WANT TO OPEN MY EYES--- AND TAKE THE CHANCE OF SEEING YOU AS YOU REALLY MIGHT BE!

POOR OLD BOY--- HE'S REALLY ILL!

BUT FIVE MINUTES LATER, AFTER WE'D COME DOWN FROM HIS ROOM...

**BANG!**  
OHH--- A SHOT!

IT'S FROM DAD'S ROOM!

DAD! OH, NO--- NO...

HE... HE'S DEAD! I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY SHOULD HE WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE---WHAT TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED TO HIM IN EGYPT TO DRIVE HIM MAD?

IT... IT IS A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY--- AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT! BUT WE DO KNOW HE'D GONE INSANE --- AND THERE'S NO POINT TO FOLLOWING OUT HIS CRAZY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THE BURIAL OR ABOUT THE RING! IT OUGHT TO BRING US PLENTY!

WHY, YOU HEARTLESS, MONEY-MAD INGRATE! DAD'S LAST DYING WISH IS GOING TO BE CARRIED OUT!

I'M GOING TO HAVE DAD SEALED UP IN THE BURIAL CAVE WITHIN 48 HOURS --- JUST AS HE REQUESTED!

YES! WE PROMISED FATHER WE WOULD!

WELL, ALL RIGHT--- SINCE YOU'RE BOTH AGAINST ME! I GUESS THE OLD BOY'S WILL OUGHT TO SUPPLY ME WITH ENOUGH MONEY, ANYWAY --- BUT IF I THOUGHT THAT RING WAS WORTH MORE THAN A FEW THOUSANDS, NOTHING WOULD KEEP ME FROM IT!

"THEN, TWO DAYS LATER,  
JUST A FEW HOURS  
AFTER THE BURIAL..."

HEY--- WAIT'LL YOU SEE  
**THIS!** I WAS JUST  
LOOKING THROUGH POP'S  
OLD BOOKS IN HIS  
LIBRARY---AND CAME ACROSS  
A PICTURE OF THE **RING  
OF ISIS!** JUST READ  
WHAT IT SAYS  
ABOUT IT!



NOW I'M BEGINNING TO  
UNDERSTAND DAD'S STRANGE  
ACTIONS! HE DISCOVERED THE  
RING, TRIED IT ON, FOUND HE  
COULDN'T TAKE IT OFF---AND  
WAS PROBABLY APPALLED AND  
SICKENED BY ALL THE DARK,  
DEPRIVED GREEDS AND  
CRUELTIES OF THOSE WHOSE  
FACES HE LOOKED ON! HE WAS  
TOO FINE AND SENSITIVE TO  
BEAR IT---AND SO HORRIFIED AT  
ALL THE EVIL  
IN THE WORLD  
THAT HE HAD  
TO COMMIT  
SUICIDE!

YEAH, BUT THINK OF THE POWER  
THAT RING WOULD GIVE SOME-  
ONE WHO WAS TOUGH ENOUGH  
TO USE IT---LIKE **US!** WHY,  
IT COULD MAKE US THE RICHEST  
MEN IN THE WORLD! WE COULD  
BLACKMAIL THE RICH AND  
PROMINENT PEOPLE WHOSE  
MINDS AND SECRETS  
WE READ, AND ---

DAD WAS RIGHT TO BE AFRAID  
TO LOOK AT US---THANK HEAVENS  
HE DIED WITHOUT KNOWING HOW  
UTTERLY CONTEMPTIBLE AT LEAST  
ONE OF HIS CHILDREN WAS!  
YOU'LL GET THAT RING ONLY OVER  
MY DEAD BODY---THAT  
TOMB STAYS  
SEALED!

OKAY, OKAY---  
IF YOU FEEL  
THAT WAY  
ABOUT IT!



"BUT THAT NIGHT, WHILE CLAUDIA AND I WERE  
TAKING A STROLL AROUND THE HOUSE..."

**BOOM!**

AN EXPLOSION---AND  
IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION  
OF THE INDIAN BURIAL CAVE!  
LET'S GET THERE  
---FAST!



THE CAVE --- IT'S  
BEEN BLOWN  
OPEN!

A LIGHT ---  
SOMEONE'S  
IN THERE!



"THEN, AT THE END OF THE CAVE, A GHASTLY SIGHT MET OUR HORRIFIED EYES..."

SHH --- DON'T MAKE ANY OUTCRY, CLAUDIA! JUST... JUST LOOK! IS... IS IT POSSIBLE?

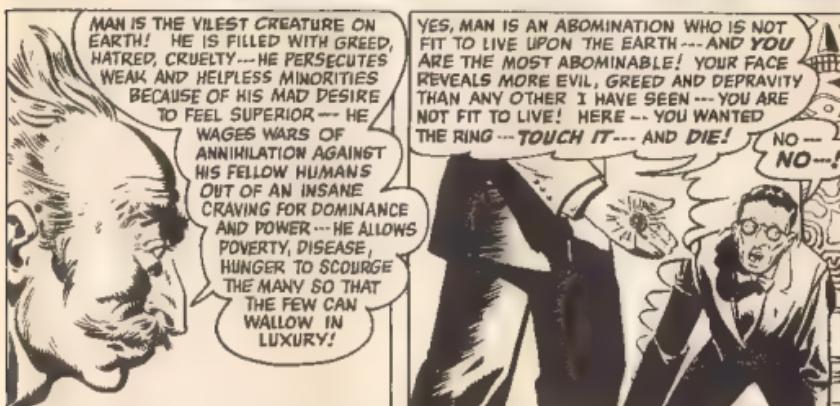
YOU --- MY OWN SON --- TO BETRAY MY DYING WISHES! A THOUSAND CURSES ON YOU FOR OPENING MY TOMB TO THE WORLD! I WANTED IT SEALED BECAUSE THE RING OF ISIS GIVES MY SPIRIT ETERNAL LIFE AFTER DEATH — AND NEVER AGAIN DID I WANT TO GAZE UPON THE FACES OF THE MOST EVIL RACE ON EARTH — THE HUMAN RACE!



MAN IS THE VILEST CREATURE ON EARTH! HE IS FILLED WITH GREED, HATRED, CRUELTY—HE PERSECUTES WEAK AND HELPLESS MINORITIES BECAUSE OF HIS MAD DESIRE TO FEEL SUPERIOR — HE WAGES WARS OF ANNIHILATION AGAINST HIS FELLOW HUMANS OUT OF AN INSANE CRAVING FOR DOMINANCE AND POWER — HE ALLOWS POVERTY, DISEASE, HUNGER TO SCOURGE THE MANY SO THAT THE FEW CAN SWALLOW IN LUXURY!

YES, MAN IS AN ABOMINATION WHO IS NOT FIT TO LIVE UPON THE EARTH --- AND YOU ARE THE MOST ABOMINABLE! YOUR FACE REVEALS MORE EVIL, GREED AND DEPRAVITY THAN ANY OTHER I HAVE SEEN --- YOU ARE NOT FIT TO LIVE! HERE -- YOU WANTED THE RING — TOUCH IT --- AND DIE!

NO — NO!



OH, NO --- FATHER... DON'T!

CLAUDIA! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CRIED OUT — IF HE SEES US, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL FIND IN OUR FACES! NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PREVENT HIM FROM LOOKING AT US—

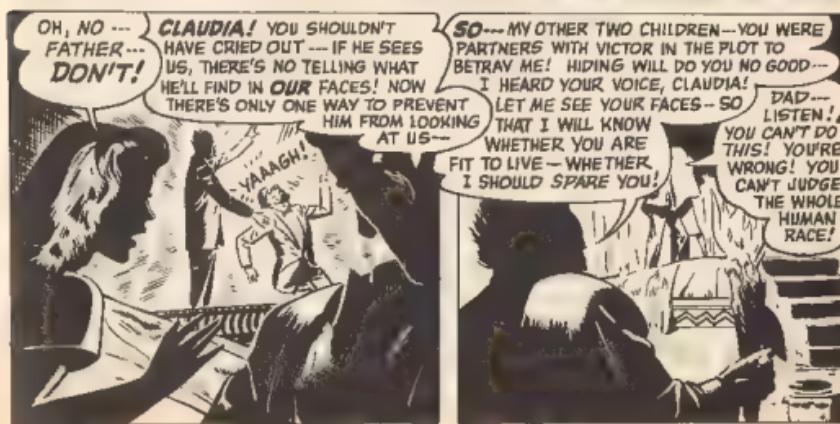
WAUGH!

SO --- MY OTHER TWO CHILDREN — YOU WERE PARTNERS WITH VICTOR IN THE PLOT TO BETRAY ME! HIDING WILL DO YOU NO GOOD...

I HEARD YOUR VOICE, CLAUDIA! LET ME SEE YOUR FACES — SO

THAT I WILL KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE FIT TO LIVE — WHETHER I SHOULD SPARE YOU!

DAD... LISTEN! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU'RE WRONG! YOU CAN'T JUDGE THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE!



HUMAN NATURE ISN'T PERFECT—  
THERE'S A LITTLE OF ENVY  
AND DESIRE FOR WEALTH  
IN EVERYONE! BUT THAT  
DOESN'T MAKE US  
UNWORTHY TO LIVE!  
DON'T FORGET THE  
LOVE AND KINDNESS  
THAT'S IN EACH OF  
US — BE FAIR!

I AM  
BEING FAIR—  
I'M NOT  
SENTENCING YOU  
TO DEATH UNTIL I  
SEE YOUR FACES...  
AND I KNOW HOW  
TO MAKE YOU SHOW  
THEM TO ME!

I'M GOING TO VISIT EVERY HOUSE IN  
ARDALE, LOOKING AT ALL THE RESIDENTS,  
KILLING THOSE WHO DESERVE KILLING — BUT  
SPARING THOSE WHOSE FACES SHOW ONLY  
PERFECT VIRTUE! AND I'LL  
CALL OFF MY CRUSADE ONLY  
WHEN THE TWO OF YOU ARE  
READY TO STAND BEFORE  
MY JUDGMENT WITH  
UNCOVERED FACES! YOU  
CAN SIGNAL YOUR  
WILLINGNESS BY LIGHTING  
A FIRE IN FRONT OF  
THE CAVE!

GREAT SCOTT!  
HE MEANS IT!  
LET'S GET  
TO A PHONE,  
CLAUDIA — IN  
A HURRY!

AND THAT'S HOW  
IT HAPPENED! AS  
SOON AS WE GOT BACK  
TO THE HOUSE, WE  
PHONED YOU AND  
TOLD YOU TO  
BROADCAST THAT  
EMERGENCY  
WARNING!

BUT WE CAN'T LET THE  
GHOST GO ON LIKE THIS—  
HE MIGHT FIND SOME  
PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T  
HEARD THE RADIO WARNING,  
OR HE MIGHT GET IMPATIENT AND  
START TEARING THE  
COVERS OFF  
PEOPLE'S  
FACES!

HE'S RIGHT, BUT... BUT WE'RE HUMAN — WITH  
ALL THE FAULTS AND IMPERFEC-  
TIONS OF HUMANS! HE'S  
PROBABLY SO ENRAGED BY  
NOW THAT NOTHING SHORT OF  
IMPOSSIBLE PERFECTION WILL  
SATISFY HIM — AND NOBODY IS  
PERFECT! BUT I... I GUESS  
WE'LL HAVE TO RISK IT!

YOU'VE GOT  
TO LIGHT THAT  
FIRE AND  
FACE HIM  
YOURSSELVES!

BUT GARY — HOW CAN  
WE BE SURE THAT NO  
MATTER HOW HE JUDGES  
US, HE'LL CALL OFF HIS  
TERRIBLE CRUSADE  
AGAINST THE  
TOWN?

I HADN'T THOUGHT  
OF THAT! — WAIT...  
I'VE GOT IT — THE  
MIRROR WILL DO  
THE TRICK! LET'S  
GO LIGHT THAT  
FIRE!

LOOK —  
THERE HE  
COMES!

IF YOU EVER PRAYED, START  
PRAYING NOW, CLAUDIA!  
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS,  
HE'S GOING TO FIND  
SOME IMPERFECTION  
IN US — AND  
DOOM US!

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A LONG, BURNING GAZE  
THAT SEEMS TO PENETRATE INTO THE VERY  
DEPTH OF THEIR SOULS...

YOU ARE BOTH COURAGEOUS, SELF-SACRIFICING,  
CONSIDERATE, WARM-HEARTED --- WITH EVEN  
A TOUCH OF TRUE NOBILITY ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE  
ALMOST PERFECT, BUT...NOT PERFECT  
ENOUGH! I'LL HAVE TO TOUCH YOU---  
SEND YOU INTO THE COLD, IMMUTABLE  
PERFECTION OF DEATH!

NO, DAD---  
WAIT!

YOU'RE A SPIRIT, BUT YOU'VE STILL  
RETAINED YOUR HUMAN FEATURES!  
LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THIS MIRROR---  
SEE WHETHER YOU'RE  
NOBLE AND VIRTUOUS  
ENOUGH TO JUDGE  
OTHERS AND SEND  
THEM TO THEIR  
DEATHS!

NO---NO! CAN THAT BE  
ME? I... I SEE NOTHING  
BUT TERRIBLE CRUELTY IN  
MY FACE... WILD FANATICISM...  
INTOLERANCE FOR HUMAN  
WEAKNESSES AND  
FRAILTIES! I...  
I DESERVE  
TO BE  
DESTROYED!

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY  
FOR MY SPIRIT TO BE DESTROYED!  
AS LONG AS THE RING OF ISIS  
REMAINS ON MY FINGER AFTER  
DEATH, MY SPIRIT WILL LIVE  
FOREVER---BUT AS PUNISHMENT  
FOR TAKING IT OFF, MY SPIRIT WILL  
DESCEND TO THE UTTER, FLAMING  
DEPTH OF THE WORLD BELOW!—  
O ISIS, DREAD GODDESS—  
I REMOVE THY SACRED RING  
---CONSIGN MY SPIRIT TO  
THE ETERNAL FLAMES!

OH, GARY---HOW...  
HOW HORRIBLE!  
YES, BUT IT WAS  
THE ONLY WAY!  
LOOK---THE RING  
IT'S FALLING OUT  
OF THE FIRE!

AAAGHH!



Yes, the ring was strangely heavy ---  
but also strangely **BUOYANT**! And  
it's either floating somewhere  
right now, or else it's already been  
picked up --- by **WHOM?**



• THE END •

# The LAND of LIVING MYTHS



HERE'S A DIFFERENT TYPE OF STORY... AS EERIE AND TERRIFYING AS ANY WHICH HAS EVER EMERGED FROM THE GRIM WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL! FOR THRILLS AND CHILLS THAT ARE REALLY OUT OF THIS WORLD, READ THIS WEIRD TALE... AS TOLD BY ITS AUTHOR, BEN MANDING!

"IT ALL BEGAN IN THE OFFICE OF ONE OF MY PUBLISHERS..."

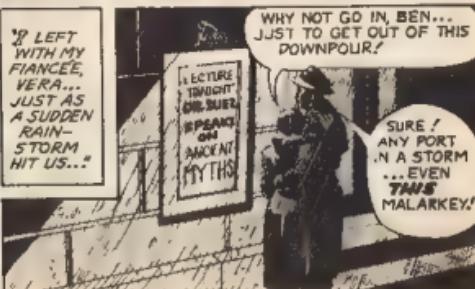
WELL, BEN, YOUR BOOK GOES ON SALE TOMORROW... AND WITH THIS KIND OF PUBLICITY, IT SHOULD BE A **BEST SELLER!**

I HOPE SO, SIR!

HOPE SO? WHY, I PREDICT THAT AFTER THIS BOOK APPEARS, MYTHOLOGY WILL NO LONGER EVEN BE TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS!



"I LEFT WITH MY FIANCEE, VERA... JUST AS A SUDDEN RAIN-STORM HIT US..."



WHY NOT GO IN, BEN... JUST TO GET OUT OF THIS DOWNPOUR?

SURE! ANY PORT IN A STORM... EVEN **THIS** MALARKEY!

...AND IN CON-  
CLUSION, I  
CLAIM THAT ALL  
THE TERRIFY-  
ING CREATURES  
OF MYTHOLOGY  
ARE **REAL**  
...AND EXIST  
IN A WORLD  
OF THEIR  
OWN!

NOW...  
ARE THERE  
ANY QUESTIONS?

YES!  
HOW DARE  
YOU DARE  
SUCH  
**FOOLISH-  
NESS**  
IN  
PUBLIC?

"I WASN'T PREPARED  
FOR HIS REACTION...  
THAT LOOK OF  
VENOMOUS HATRED."

"AS WE LEFT, I TRIED TO  
DOWN THE EERIE FORE-  
BODING OF **EVIL**, THAT  
CAME OVER ME!"

YOU ARE A CYNICAL  
DISBELIEVER... AND  
BEFORE LONG YOU WILL  
**LEARN** THE TRUTH OF  
MY THEORY!

I'M WORRIED  
B'N THAT  
OLD MAN  
MAY CAUSE  
TROUBLE

FORGET IT...  
WE'VE SEEN  
THE LAST OF  
HIM!"

WHAT  
**NONSENSE!**  
THIS FAKE  
SHOULD  
BE  
EXPOSED!



"BUT AS WE ENTERED MY  
APARTMENT..."

MAMA...!  
DR. SUMER!  
BUT HOW  
DID YOU...?

NEVER MIND  
THAT! I HAVE  
PROOF TO OFFER  
YOU THAT A  
MYTHOLOGICAL  
WORLD **REALLY**  
**EXISTS**...PROOF  
THAT WAS IMPOSS-  
IBLE BEFORE  
AN AUDIENCE!

**NUTS!**  
FOR MY MONEY,  
YOU'RE  
OFF YOUR  
ROCKER...

MASSIE  
**THIS**  
WILL CHANGE  
YOUR MIND!



"AS THE SINISTER MAN GESTURED  
STRANGELY, THERE WAS A CRASH, A  
BLINDING FLARE OF LIGHT, AND..."

YOU  
**SUMMONED**  
ME, MASTER?

GREAT GUNS!  
IT'S MERCURY  
...THE MESSEN-  
GER OF THE  
GODS!"



"ANOTHER GESTURE... AND THE APPARITION VANISHED!"

WELL,  
ARE YOU  
CONVINCED  
NOW?

YES. CONVINCED  
THAT YOU'RE JUST  
A CHARLATAN WHO  
RELIES ON  
HYPNOTISM  
TO PROVE YOUR  
LIES!"

"I MOVED FORWARD TO OUST  
THIS QUEER LUNATIC, BUT..."

M-MY  
ARMS.  
THEY'RE  
PARA-  
LYZED!

YOU HAVE DARED TO  
SCOFF AT MY KNOWLEDGE  
AND POWER... AND FOR  
THAT, YOU SHALL  
SUFFER!"

"I HEREBY EXILE YOU TO THE  
LAND OF LIVING MYTHS...  
AND TO MAKE YOUR PUNISH-  
MENT WORSE, YOUR LOVED ONE  
SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU!"

COME ON,  
VERA... WE'LL  
CALL A COP!"

"WE WALKED OUTSIDE... INTO A  
STRANGE AND MAGICAL REALM!"

VERA... LOOK! HE  
WAS RIGHT, THEN...  
THIS MUST BE THE  
LAND OF LIVING  
MYTHS!"

YES... AND YOU  
MAY RETURN  
ONLY THROUGH  
THIS POOR... IF  
YOU CAN FIND  
IT AGAIN!"

"AS I REALIZED THE HORRIBLE  
TRUTH, I WHIRLED... TOO LATE!"

W-AT? YOU  
CAN'T! THE  
POOR... IT'S  
DISAPPEARED!"

"WE WERE STRANDED... IN AN  
EERIE, TERRIFYING LAND  
THAT SEEMED LIKE A NIGHT-  
MARE COME TRUE!"

W-WHAT'S  
THAT?" HUH?



"LUCKILY I HAD READ HOW HUNTERS TRAP RHINOS IN AFRICA... WOULD IT WORK WITH A UNICORN?"



...BUT NOT TOO FAR AWAY... WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT DOOR AGAIN!



BEN... I'M FRIGHTENED! SO AM I... AS OF NOW! LOOK WHAT'S COMING!





LOOK...  
IT'S TIME  
YOU  
EXPLAINED  
WHAT THIS  
IS ALL  
ABOUT!

THEN HEAR ME,  
O MORTAL!



LEARN WHY I VISITED  
EARTH! MAN'S BELIEF  
IN MYTHOLOGY HAS  
GROWN STEADILY WEAK-  
ER... WE EXIST ONLY  
AS CREATURES OF HIS  
**IMAGINATION!**  
...AND IF MEN CEASE  
TO BELIEVE IN US EN-  
TIRELY, WE WILL  
**CEASE TO EXIST!**



I WENT AMONG YOU  
AS A MAN, STRIVING  
TO INCREASE HUMAN  
BELIEF IN US... TO  
PROTECT MY REALM  
AGAINST CYNICS LIKE  
YOU! AND NOW THAT YOU  
HAVE WRITTEN YOUR BOOK,  
YOU ARE EVEN MORE  
**DANGEROUS!**



HOW COULD I DOUBT THE EVI-  
DENCE OF MY OWN EYES... I  
MADE A QUICK DECISION...

I SEE THAT I WAS WRONG!  
NOW... WILL YOU SEND US BACK  
TO OUR WORLD?



ON ONE  
CONDITION...  
YOU MUST  
PROMISE THAT  
YOUR BOOK  
**WILL NOT  
APPEAR!**

BUT I CAN'T...  
IT'S OUT OF  
MY HANDS!  
NO MATTER  
WHAT I DO,  
THE BOOK  
WILL GO  
ON SALE  
**TOMORROW!!**

YOU **STILL**  
DARE TO  
THWART MY  
WILL? **THROW**  
**THEM TO**  
**THE CYCLOPS!**



WE WERE SEIZED, FORCED INTO A  
LARGE NATURAL ARENA... AND THERE  
ABOVE US, LOOMED OUR GRISLY FATE!



OH,  
NO!

WAIT! HE  
EXPECTS US  
TO RUN  
**AWAY**  
FROM HIM?  
SO...

"A THING THAT BIG HAD TO BE SLOW...IN BODY AND IN MIND! IT WAS A BREAK FOR US..."



"I HAD SPOTTED OUR LAST HOPE...A CAVE!"



"BUT OUR LUCK HAD RUN OUT...WE HAD DASHED INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH!"



"WHEN...OUR SENSES RETURNED... AND WE FOUND OURSELVES BACK IN MY APARTMENT!"



"IT WAS MY PUBLISHER..."

BAD NEWS, BEN... THERE'S BEEN A FIRE IN OUR WAREHOUSE. LUCKILY, WE'RE INSURED, BUT... EVERY COPY OF YOUR BOOK WAS BURNED!... WHAT?



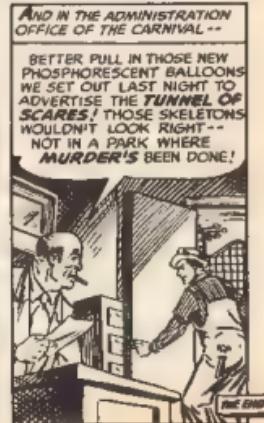
"LATER..."

COME ON, DARLING. LET'S GO CELEBRATE THE END OF YOUR LITERARY CAREER!

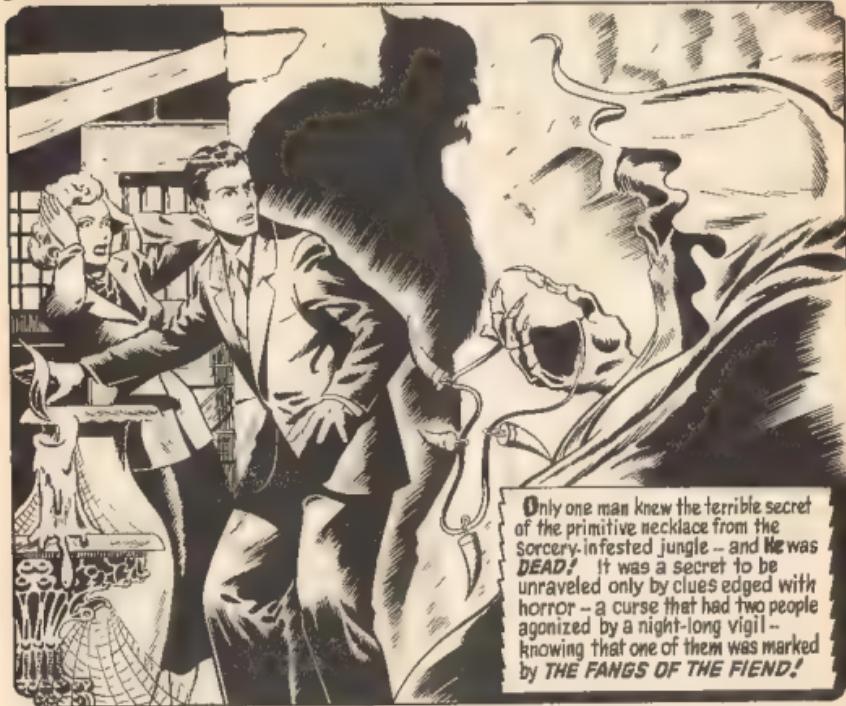


THE END

# DEATH at the CARNIVAL!



# FANGS of the FIEND



Only one man knew the terrible secret of the primitive necklace from the sorcery-infested jungle — and he was **DEAD!** It was a secret to be unraveled only by clues edged with horror — a curse that had two people agonized by a night-long vigil — knowing that one of them was marked by **THE FANGS OF THE FIEND!**

LATE ONE AFTERNOON —

CANT SAY I THINK MUCH OF THIS HOUSE YOU'VE INHERITED, NORA — ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING IT'S FIFTEEN MILES FROM THE NEAREST TOWN!

AFTER EXPLORING FOR YEARS AMONG PRIMITIVE TRIBES, UNCLE FRED WANTED A QUIET PLACE FOR HIS RESEARCH! I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE TROPHIES MENTIONED IN HIS WILL, JIM — BUT AFTER SEEING THE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME — I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME WITH ME!



THERE SEEMED TO BE A PRESENCE LURKING BEYOND THE COBBLED DOORWAY — SOMETHING THAT EVOKED FORGOTTEN TOM-TOMS IN THE DISTANT JUNGLE — AND A DREAD THAT CLUNG TO THE SHADOWS!

YEP — IF THERE EVER WAS A PLACE WITH A HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE — THIS IS IT! WHAT'S ON THE PROGRAM, NORA?

UNCLE FRED'S LAWYER GAVE ME THE COMBINATION OF HIS WALL SAFE — AND MAYBE WE'D BETTER GET THAT OVER WITH FIRST!



A MOMENT LATER -  
I WON'T BE SURPRISED  
TO FIND IT EMPTY, JIM -  
BECAUSE I'M PRETTY  
SURE UNCLE FRED DIDN'T  
LEAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE!

BUT THERE IS  
SOMETHING, HONEY!  
WHAT'S MORE -- IT  
FEELS LIKE A  
NECKLACE!

HOLY SMOKE - IT'S  
NOTH NG BUT FOUR  
POINTED TEETH! IF  
THEY WEREN'T SO LONG  
AND SHARP, I'D SAY  
THEY LOOKED ALMOST  
HUMAN!

A GRUESOME OBJECT LIKE  
THAT CAN'T BE VALUABLE!  
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE  
UNCLE FRED KEPT IT  
IN THE SAFE?



SUDDENLY - HOVERING FROM THE DEEPENING GLOOM -

GOOD HEAVENS, GET BEHIND ME -- AND  
JIM! THAT  
HORRIBLE THING'S  
STALKING  
US!

GET BEHIND ME -- AND  
DON'T LOSE YOUR  
NERVE!



THE PHANTOM FINGERS SEEM TO WEAVE IN THE DUSK  
LIKE THE FEELERS OF HORROR - AND UNEXPECTEDLY -

GREAT GUNS - IT'S GRABBED  
THE NECKLACE!



AS THE SPECTRAL SHAPE OZES  
INTO THE SHADOWS -

JIM - NOW I'M SURE THERE'S EVIL  
LURKING IN THIS PLACE! GHOSTS  
DON'T JUST HAPPEN -  
WHAT IS IT?  
THERE'S  
ONLY ONE WAY  
TO FIND OUT, HONEY -  
LET'S FOLLOW IT!



- IN A BROODING CORRIDOR  
TOUCHED BY THE DREAD  
OF THE UNSEEN --

THERE'S NO  
SIGN OF THAT  
THING ANY-  
WHERE, JIM!  
LET'S LEAVE  
WELL ENOUGH  
ALONE - AND  
GET OUT  
OF HERE!

AND SPEND THE  
REST OF OUR LIVES  
WONDERING WHY A  
GHOST WOULD BE  
INTERESTED IN FOUR  
POINTED FANGS?  
COME ON, NORA -  
LET'S SEE WHAT WE  
CAN FIND IN THE  
CELLAR!

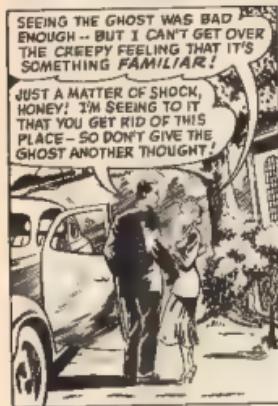


FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE MUSTY  
DEPTHES - RISING AND FALLING  
IN A MUFFLED CHORUS -

JIM - THAT GHOST DIDN'T MAKE A  
SOUND! WHAT IN HEAVEN ARE WE  
GOING TO FACE  
NOW?

I'VE GOT A  
HUNCH WE'LL KNOW  
THE ANSWER - SOON  
AS WE OPEN THAT  
DOOR!









IS THE SLOW HOURS TICK AWAY--AND THE CHANGE IN JIM'S FEATURES GROWS LIKE A CREEPING BLIGHT--

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE, NORA--DON'T LOOK AT ME! I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY FACE--MINUTE BY MINUTE!

THANK HEAVEN THE TRANSFORMATION'S A SLOW ONE--WE MAY STILL HAVE TIME!

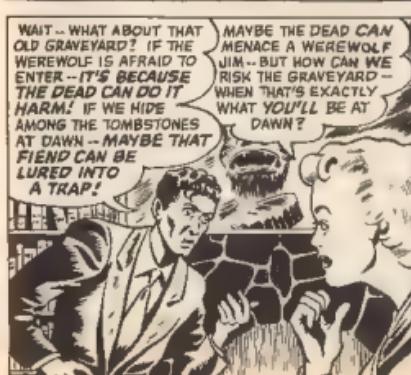


EVIDENTLY, THE WEREWOLF HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY TRIBAL MAGIC--AND THE FANGS WERE KEPT AS A VALISMAN! ONLY ONE THING COULD RESTORE THE FIEND--THE VERY THING THAT HAPPENED TONIGHT! ACCORDING TO THE NATIVES, WHEN THE FANGS ONCE MORE PIERCED HUMAN FLESH, AND WERE REDDENED BY HUMAN BLOOD--THE WEREWOLF WOULD LIVE AGAIN!



WAIT--WHAT ABOUT THAT OLD GRAVEYARD? IF THE WEREWOLF IS AFRAID TO ENTER--IT'S BECAUSE THE DEAD CAN DO IT HARM! IF WE HIDE AMONG THE TOMBSTONES AT DAWN--MAYBE THAT FIEND CAN BE LURED INTO A TRAP!

MAYBE THE DEAD CAN MENACE A WEREWOLF JIM--BUT HOW CAN WE RISK THE GRAVEYARD--WHEN THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'LL BE AT DAWN?



HERE IT IS--THE ENTRY UNCLE FRED WROTE THE DAY HE BARTERED FOR THE NECKLACE IN A JUNGLE VILLAGE! DARLING, IT'S HORRIBLE--IT'S JUST WHAT WE FEARED--THOSE HIDEOUS THINGS ARE CALLED THE FANGS OF THE FIEND!

DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES, NORA--NOTHING CAN COME AS A SHOCK WHEN I FEEL DOOM SPREADING THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY! WHAT'S THE REST?



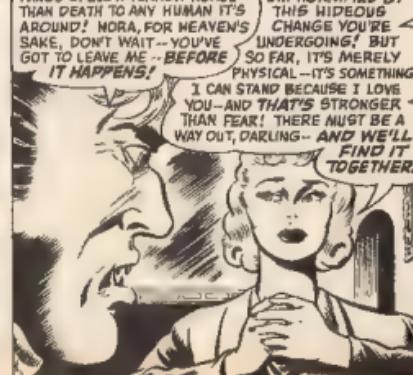
AND WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT THE VICTIM? HOW LONG HAVE I GOT--BEFORE I BECOME A THING LIKE THAT? UNTIL DAWN--ONE HOUR FROM NOW! THE FIEND WILL BE COMING FOR YOU, JIM--IT'LL BE HERE TO WATCH THE LAST HIDEOUS STAGE OF YOUR TRANSFORMATION--AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO PREVENT IT!



YES--A CREATURE WHOSE FANGS SPELL A TERROR WORSE THAN DEATH TO ANY HUMAN IT'S AROUND! NORA, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T WAIT--YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE ME--BEFORE IT HAPPENS!

JIM--I WON'T DENY I'M HORRIFIED BY THIS HIDEOUS CHANGE YOU'RE UNDERGOING! BUT SO FAR, IT'S MERELY PHYSICAL--IT'S SOMETHING

I CAN STAND BECAUSE I LOVE YOU--AND THAT'S STRONGER THAN FEAR! THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT, DARLING--AND WE'LL FIND IT TOGETHER!



SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS, A BIRD TWITTERS. AWARE OF THE ONCOMING SUNRISE--AND IN A VOICE THAT DEEPENS MORE AND MORE INTO AN INHUMAN GROWL--

THINK OF IT... WE PLANNED A LIFETIME TOGETHER--AND NOW, IN JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES--YOU'LL SHRINK FROM ME, NORA! THERE'LL BE A MONSTROUS CAST TO MY FACE NO WOMAN CAN STAND--A FANGED EVIL THAT'LL SEND YOU SCREAMING INTO THE DARKNESS! JIM--SOMETHING'S GLIDING THROUGH THE DOORWAY! IT CAN'T BE THE WEREWOLF--NOT THIS SOON!



IT'S THE PHANTOM, NORA! LOOK--IT'S MOTIONING--AS IF IT WANTS US TO FOLLOW!

GOOD HEAVENS--THE INDEX FINGER'S MISSING FROM IT'S RIGHT HAND! NOW I KNOW WHAT I RECOGNIZED JIM--IT'S THE GHOST OF UNCLE FRED! ALL THIS TIME--IT'S BEEN TRYING TO HELP US!



SUDDENLY--AS IF THE SHADOWS DISGORGED A BURDEN OF EVIL--

THE WERE-WOLF! IT'S COME AHEAD OF TIME TO DRIVE THE GHOST AWAY--KNOWING IT'S OUR LAST HOPE!

ARRGH!



JIM--WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE! THE GHOST MIGHT HAVE DONE SOMETHING--BUT IT'S RETREATING!

UNLESS IT STILL WANTS TO LEAD US SOMEWHERE! LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS CREEP--AND SEE WHERE THE GHOST IS HEADING!

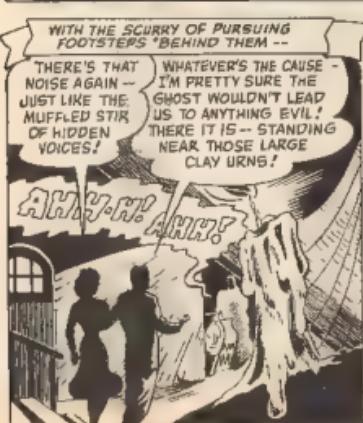


WITH THE SCURRY OF PURSUING FOOTSTEPS BEHIND THEM--

THEIR'S THAT NOISE AGAIN--JUST LIKE THE MUFFLED STIR OF HIDDEN VOICES!

WHATEVER'S THE CAUSE--I'M PRETTY SURE THE GHOST WOULDN'T LEAD US TO ANYTHING EVIL! THERE IT IS--STANDING NEAR THOSE LARGE CLAY URNS!

AHH-H! AHH!



AHH-H?

THOSE WEIRD VOICES ARE GROWING LOUDER--AND THEY'RE COMING FROM THE URNS!

QUICK--DUCK INTO THE SHADOWS!

AHH!



AN INSTANT LATER--

HUUUH!

THE WEREWOLF'S  
STARTLED, JIM--  
WHAT'S IT AFRAID OF?

SOMETHING WE SHOULD  
HAVE SENSED THE FIRST  
TIME: THOSE ARE BURIAL  
URNS--AND THEY'RE GLOWING  
BRIGHTER EVERY SECOND!

SUDDENLY--IN A WAVE THAT SWEEPS ACROSS THE  
BARRIERS OF THE BEYOND--

GUGH!

GUGH....!



Grimly, the stark figures engulf the werewolf--  
and a baying death-note shudders against  
the dawning sky!



THEN--IN THE FIRST MUTE FLASH OF SUNLIGHT--

YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID, HONEY! THE WEREWOLF'S DESTROYED FOR GOOD--  
AND THOSE DEAD NATIVES YOUR UNCLE BROUGHT FROM THE JUNGLE ARE RETURNING TO THEIR BURIAL URNS!

THANK GOODNESS I'VE GOT PROOF  
EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT,  
JIM--BECAUSE  
YOUR FEATURES ARE NORMAL AGAIN!



UNCLE FRED'S GHOST IS STARTING TO FADE! IT APPEARED FOR JUST ONE PURPOSE, JIM-- AND NOW IT'S RETURNING TO THE PEACE OF THE AFTERLIFE!

MY GUESS IS THAT YOUR UNCLE PLACED THE FANGS IN HIS SAFE WHEN HE REALIZED HE HADN'T LONG TO LIVE! THERE WAS JUST ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION THEY'D PIERCE HUMAN FLESH WHILE THEY WERE STRUNG TOGETHER IN A NECKLACE-- BUT HE WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES!

A LOT OF THE NIGHT'S TERROR WOULD HAVE BEEN BEARABLE, JIM-- IF WE ONLY KNEW THE REASON THEN! UNCLE FRED'S GHOST KNEW THE NECKLACE WAS DANGEROUS-- AND THAT'S WHY IT TRIED TO TAKE THOSE HORRIBLE FANGS AWAY FROM US!

YEP, AND THEN IT LED US TO THE CELAR-- KNOWING THE DEAD WOULD MOAN A WARNING WHEN THEY SENSED THE PRESENCE OF THE FANGS OF THE FIEND! BUT ONLY ONE THING COULD MAKE THOSE URNS YIELD WHAT THEY HELD-- WHEN THE WEREWOLF FINALLY TOOK SHAPE-- AND WAS TRICKED INTO PURSUING US TO A PLACE OCCUPIED BY THE HIDDEN DEAD!



The END

# MIRROR OF DOOM



IN ANCIENT TIMES, BOTH SORCERERS AND ALCHEMISTS SOUGHT TO PLUMB THE UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERIES WHICH SEEM TO LIE BEHIND THE GLITTERING SURFACE OF A MIRROR! ALL FAILED, EXCEPT FOR THE GREAT WIZARD ALBERTUS MAGNUS, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE, IMPRISONED IN A MIRROR OF HIS OWN FASHIONING EXISTS TODAY--AND ITS MENACE, AS THIS STORY PROVES--IS OVERWHELMING!

IN THE HOME OF JOHN FORSYTHE, WEALTHY ANTIQUES COLLECTOR--

--AND NOW FOR NEWS AT HOME--THE ART WORLD WAS GRIEVED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF SILAS LUNDIGAN, WORLD FAMOUS COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUES--

TOO BAD! BUT THIS MEANS I'LL BE ABLE TO BID ON SOME ITEMS IN HIS COLLECTION WHEN THEY COME UP FOR AUCTION!



WEEKS LATER, AT THE AUCTION--

--AND NOW, THIS MEDIEVAL MIRROR, REPUTEDLY CONSTRUCTED BY ALBERTUS MAGNUS, THE GREAT MYSTIC OF THE DARK AGES! WHAT AM I BID?

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!

OH, OH... SOMEONE ELSE WANTS THAT MIRROR--BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO OUTBID ME!

FIVE THOUSAND!



AS THE SPIRITED BIDDING IS CONCLUDED--

GOING ONCE--GOING TWICE--**SOLD** TO MR. JOHN FORSYTHE FOR \$32,000!

BAH--THE FILTHY RICH GET EVERYTHING!



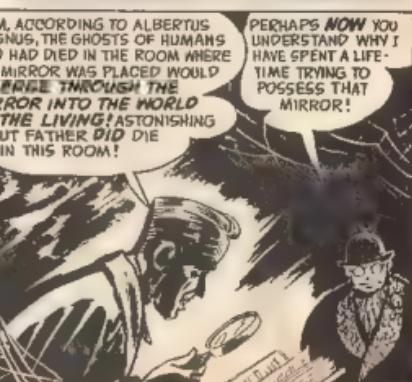
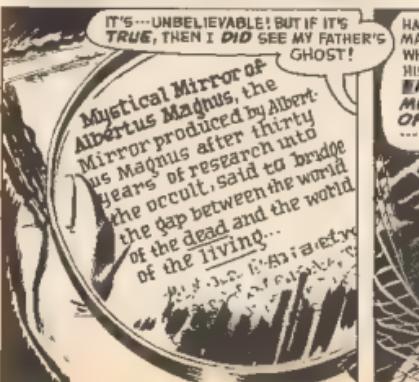
OUTSIDE...

I'VE SPENT YEARS TRYING TO GET THAT MIRROR, AND I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP NOW!

BE GONE, MY GOOD MAN!--CAREFUL WITH THAT MIRROR, HAWKINS!

YES, SIR!





PERHAPS NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE SPENT A LIFE-TIME TRYING TO POSSESS THAT MIRROR!

YOU! HOW DID  
YOU GET PAST  
MY GATEMAN?

NEVER FEAR... I DIDN'T HIT HIM  
TOO HARD! I COME TO OFFER  
YOU UNTOLD POWER... IF YOU  
ALLOW MY GENIUS TO GUIDE  
YOU IN THE USE OF THE MIRROR!  
WITH YOUR INFLUENCE, IT SHOULD  
BE EASY FOR YOU TO GET A PASS  
TO WITNESS THE NEXT ELECTRO-  
CUTION IN THE STATE PRISON--  
AND THINK WHAT IT WILL  
MEAN IF YOU  
BRING THE  
MIRROR WITH  
YOU!

YOU'RE  
...MAD!

THE MOST VIOCIOUS MURDERERS OF  
OUR TIME WOULD PASS THROUGH THE  
MIRROR INTO OUR WORLD! THEY'LL  
OBEY US... SINCE WE CAN RETURN  
THEM TO THE LIMBO OF NOTHINGNESS  
BY SMASHING THE MIRROR! THEN  
WE'LL GO ON, TO REGURGITATE OTHER  
FIENDISH KILLERS--UNTIL WE'VE  
AMASSED AN ARMY OF THE  
MOST EVIL GHOSTS IN  
HISTORY... AN ARMY THAT  
CAN MAKE YOU AND ME  
RULERS OF THE  
EARTH!

I INTEND TO USE THIS MIRROR FOR GOOD PURPOSES!  
NOW THAT I KNOW ITS POWERS, I'M GOING TO TAKE  
A ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL--AND LET THE  
GHOSTS OF ALL THE POOR UNFORTUNATES WHO DIED  
HERE COME BACK TO LIFE! THEN I'LL TOUR THE WORLD  
--AND SUMMON BACK THE  
GREAT GENIUSES WHO HELPED  
MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD  
TO LIVE IN!  
NOW GET  
OUT-- AND  
DON'T  
COME  
BACK!

VERY WELL,  
FOOL-- BUT WE  
WILL MEET AGAIN!

HELLO, MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL? THIS  
IS JOHN FORSYTHE-- I'D LIKE TO  
RESERVE A PRIVATE ROOM FOR  
TOMORROW NIGHT-- I'LL WANT  
A COMPLETE MEDICAL  
CHECKUP IN  
THE MORNING!

VERY  
GOOD  
SIR!

NEXT NIGHT, AT THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL...

STRANGE-- I WONDER WHY THEY  
GAVE ME A ROOM WITH **BARRED**  
**WINDOWS**? OH WELL, AT  
LEAST I WON'T BE DISTURBED  
WHEN I RAISE THE  
GHOSTS OF THOSE WHO  
DIED RIGHT HERE! THE  
DOORS LOCKED, SO I  
CAN BEGIN IMMEDIATELY!



AH, SOMETHING'S COMING UP FROM  
BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE MIRROR!  
BUT WAIT-- THAT FACE THAT'S TAKING  
SHAPE-- IT'S HIDEOUSLY  
EVIL!



YE GODS --- I --- I'VE  
SEEN THAT FACE  
BEFORE --- BUT  
WHERE?

IN THE NEWSPAPERS, NO  
DOUBT --- THAT'S THE GHOST  
OF MAD-DOG BLAKE,  
THE INSANE KILLER WHO  
DIED IN THIS  
ROOM ONLY  
LAST WEEK!

YOU AGAIN!

YES, IT WAS SIMPLE  
ENOUGH TO BRIBE THE  
HOSPITAL CLERK TO GIVE  
YOU THIS PRISON WARD  
ROOM! IT COST A FEW  
HUNDRED DOLLARS  
--- BUT IT WILL  
GET ME THE  
MIRROR!

AS THE GHOST OF THE MANIAC LUNGE  
MURDEROUSLY...

HA-HA --- YOU  
DIE --- WHILE  
YOUR KILLER  
BECOMES THE  
FIRST RECRUIT  
IN MY LEGION  
OF EVIL!

YAAAGHHH!

BUT AS THE GHOST DROPS THE LIFELESS BODY OF HIS VICTIM,  
AND TURNS MURDEROUSLY...

NO --- STOP --- YOU MUSTN'T HARM  
ME! I BROUGHT YOU BACK TO THE  
WORLD OF THE LIVING --- I AM YOUR  
MASTER! STAND BACK --- OR  
I'LL FIRE A BULLET INTO THE  
MIRROR AND RETURN YOU TO  
THE LIMBO OF NOTHINGNESS!  
GET BACK --- BACK---

BUT LOGICAL REASONING HAD NO  
EFFECT ON THE GHOST OF A RAVING  
MANIAC' WITH A SUDDEN LUNGE

YAAAGHHH

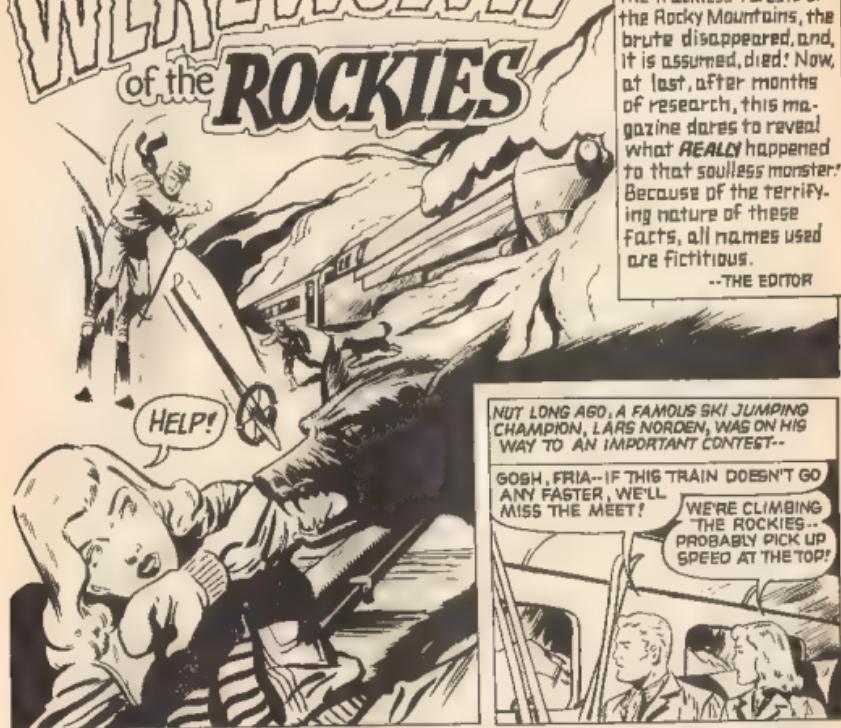
WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED...

WELL, WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHY  
THESE TWO MEN STRANGLED  
EACH OTHER --- OR WHY FORSYTHE  
BROUGHT ONE OF HIS ANTIQUE  
MIRRORS HERE! BUT SINCE  
IT'S HIS, WE'LL HAVE TO RE-  
TURN IT TO HIS ESTATE ---  
IT'LL PROBABLY BE  
SOLD AT AUCTION TO-  
GETHER WITH THE  
REST OF HIS  
JUNK!

WHAT MIRROR WAS SOLD AT  
AUCTION, READER --- BUT NO ONE  
KNOWS WHERE IT IS TODAY! SO  
IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE AN ANCIENT  
MIRROR LIKE THE ONE BELOW IN THE  
WINDOW OF SOME  
ANTIQUES SHOP,  
BEWARE!

THE END!

# WEREWOLVES of the ROCKIES



It is reported that in the last century, a werewolf entered this country from Europe! Traced to the trackless forests of the Rocky Mountains, the brute disappeared, and, it is assumed, died! Now, at last, after months of research, this magazine dares to reveal what **REALLY** happened to that soulless monster. Because of the terrifying nature of these facts, all names used are fictitious.

--THE EDITOR

JUST THEN THE ENGINEER SPOTTED A FEARFUL SIGHT DEAD AHEAD--

HOLY SMOKE!  
LOOK THERE--  
ON THE  
TRACKS!

STOP THE  
TRAIN--  
QUICK!

SNOWGLIDE!-- AND ONLY  
FAST ACTION AVOIDED A  
MAJOR DISASTER!



AS THE FRIGHTENED PASSENGERS CLUSTERED BESIDE THE TRACKS--

WE'LL  
FREEZE  
IF WE  
DON'T  
GET  
HELP!

HMM-- THERE'S A  
VILLAGE A DAY'S  
WALK FROM HERE--  
BUT WE COULD  
NEVER REACH IT IN  
THIS DEEP SNOW!



BUT SNOW WAS NO BARRIER TO LARS  
NORDEN, CHAMPION SKIER--

FRIA AND  
I WILL GO--  
IT'LL BE A  
CINCH ON  
SKIS!

BOOD! I DON'T KNOW  
MUCH ABOUT THE  
VILLAGE-- ONLY  
THAT IT'S DUE  
SOUTH OF HERE!

THROUGH THE DARK, FORESTED  
HILLS SPED THE YOUNG COUPLE  
-- ON A PATH THAT LED TO  
HIDDEN TERROR!

LARS, HAVE YOU NOTICED  
HOW THESE DOG TRACKS  
SEEM TO BE HEADING  
TOWARD OUR  
DESTINATION? ONLY THEY'RE  
NOT DOG  
TRACKS-- THEY  
WERE MADE BY  
WOLVES!

HOURS LATER-- AND THERE'S  
A STRANGE  
ANIMAL ODOR  
ABOUT THE  
PLACE! I  
DON'T LIKE  
IT!



BUT UNREASONING FEARS WERE LESS  
IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN LIVES, SO--

-- AND WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D  
HELP US DIG A PATH THROUGH  
THAT SNOWSLIDE!

SURE, WE'LL  
HELP-- JUST  
LEAD THE WAY!

AS THE MEN WENT TO COL-  
LECT SHOVELS--

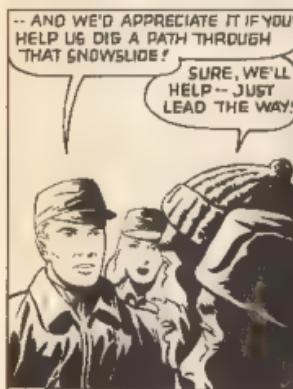
THERE'S SOMETHING EERIE  
ABOUT THIS PLACE! I  
HAVEN'T SEEN  
ANY WOMEN OR  
CHILDREN  
AROUND--  
ONLY MEN!

YES-- AND  
THEY SEEM  
ALMOST  
HAPPY  
ABOUT THE  
STALLED TRAIN!

EAGERLY, THE VILLAGERS  
PUSHED INTO THE FOREST--

WAIT-- WE CAN'T  
MAKE IT BEFORE  
THERE'S A  
DARK-- WE MAY  
GET LOST IN  
THE WOODS!

DON'T WORRY!  
THERE'S A  
FULL MOON  
TONIGHT--  
IT'LL BE LIKE  
DAY!



THE WORDS  
EXCITED  
THEM  
INTO A  
STRANGE,  
WILD  
CHANT--

FULL MOON TONIGHT! FULL MOON TONIGHT!--  
AND A TRAINLOAD OF HELPLESS  
PEOPLE-- WAITING!

NOW I'M SURE  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
SCREWY ABOUT  
THIS MOB--  
BUT WHAT?



SOON THEY REACHED A LOW RIDGE OF SNOW, AND, UNSUSPECTING, STARTED ACROSS! SUDDENLY--



AND NOW, LARS AND FRIA WERE SEPARATED BY A HUNDRED-FOOT DROP!



WITH AN UNEASY FOREBODING OF DISASTER, LARS RETURNED TO THE STRANGE VILLAGE.



LATER--UNABLE TO SLEEP, HE CHANCED TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW--



FOR THERE, BENEATH THE PALE RAYS OF THE NEWLY-RISEN MOON--



AT THAT MOMENT, FRIA WAS CROSSING A MOONLIT STRETCH OF SNOW, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY HER EVIL COMPANION--

HOW LONG WILL THAT LOVELY MOON BE UP?



RECEIVING NO ANSWER, THE GIRL TURNED, STARED AGHAST--

DID YOU HEAR ME?  
I-- OH, NO! NO!



-- WHILE FAR BEHIND, LARS CAME TO A HALT AT THE DEEP CANYON--

THEY'VE GIVEN UP THE CHASE!... I'VE GOT TO KEEP THOSE GRIZLY BRUTES FROM REACHING THE TRAIN TOMORROW-- BUT HOW?



THOSE SAPLINGS? THEY'RE ALDER TREES-- ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT'LL KILL A WEREWOLF! AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! LUCKY GRANDFATHER NORDEN USED TO TELL ME ABOUT THE WEREWOLF PACKS IN THE OLD NORTH COUNTRY!



HE ALSO WARNED THAT ANYBODY BITTEN BY A WEREWOLF TURNS INTO ONE OF THE FOUL CREATURES! I MUST BE CAREFUL!



HOURS LATER, HIS TASK FINISHED, HE RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE -- JUST AS THE SUN ROSE--

WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO?

THE MOON WAS SO BRIGHT, I-- ER-- GOT IN SOME SKIING PRACTICE FOR THE CONTEST!

WITH THE MOON GONE, THEY'VE RETURNED TO THEIR HUMAN FORM! THEY WON'T BE DANGEROUS UNTIL -- TONIGHT!



AT ONCE, THE WEREWOLF PACK GOT OUT FOR THE CANYON-- AND WORK WAS BEGUN ON A BRIDGE--

HURRY-- HURRY!

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, ALL THOSE PASSENGERS WILL BE DEAD DUCKS -- AND I'LL BE THE FIRST!



NO SOONER WAS THE NARROW, SWAYING  
STRUCTURE FINISHED THAN THE WERE-  
WOLVES, LUSTING FOR THEIR HUMAN  
PREY, RUSHED FORWARD--



WITH THE ENTIRE PACK ON THE BRIDGE,  
LARS LEAPED INTO ACTION--



AND NOW, THE LONG HOURS  
OF TOIL BORE GHASTLY FRUIT!



THERE WAS STILL THE CRE-  
VASSAGE TO CROSS, WITH  
AGONIZING DEATH WAIT-  
ING BELOW! IT CALLED  
FOR A CHAMPION SKI  
JUMPER--

MADE IT!  
NOW TO MAKE TRACKS  
FOR THAT TRAIN-- AND  
FRIA!



THE DAY PASSED AND NIGHT  
FELL-- JUST AS THE WEARY  
LARS REACHED HIS GOAL--ONLY  
TO BE MET BY HORROR!

WEREWOLVES-- TWO OF  
THEM! AND JUST MOVING  
IN TO THE ATTACK!



OBLIVIOUS TO DANGERS, LARS  
DREW THE WEREWOLVES'  
ATTENTION TO HIMSELF--



AS THE FIRST BEAST LEAPED...



CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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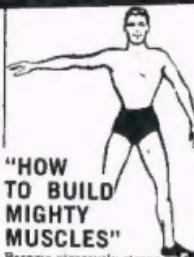
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CERTAIN THAT LARS WAS DOOMED, THE TERRIFIED TRAINMEN HUSTLED THE PASSENGERS ABOARD, BACKED THE TRAIN DOWN THE TRACKS TO SAFETY...

NOW FOR THE SECOND OF THOSE MONSTERS!



SURPRISE! I MADE THESE SKI POLES MYSELF -- OUT OF ALDER WOOD! NOW TO FINISH OFF YOUR FRIEND!

RR-ROW!



BUT THE FIRST WEREWOLF HAD DISAPPEARED--

NO WONDER! IT'S DAWN-- AND IT DIDN'T DARE FACE ME IN ITS HUMAN GUISE! I-- WHAT'S THAT?



HALF-BURIED IN A NEARBY SNOWBANK-- FRIA? PAINFULLY, SHE ROSE TO HER FEET--

SHE MUST HAVE FAINTED WHEN THOSE TWO MONSTERS ATTACKED!



THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE SAFE, DARLING! NOW LET'S GO AFTER THAT TRAIN-- IT CAN'T BE VERY FAR BACK!



UNABLE TO LOCATE FRIA'S SKIS, THEY RODE BACK DOUBLE--

-- STILL, I CAN'T HELP REGRETTING THAT ONE WEREWOLF ESCAPED!



AH, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T! WHO KNOWS, YOU MAY MEET IT AGAIN-- SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

